

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 IGA-02 AID-20 EB-11 IO-13 AGR-20 HEW-08

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 DODE-00

H-02 PM-07 RSR-01 /146 W

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O 290955 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6747

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1466

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SU

SUBJ: DROUGHT RELIEF REQUEST

REF: (A) STATE 126657; (B) KHARTOUM 1317

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. KEY GOS OFFICIALS CITE CONTINUING SUPPLY PROBLEM, BUT DOWNPLAY EMERGENCY. GOS DATA NOT YET DELIVERED. CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE INDICATES SUPPLY PROBLEM BASED TO LARGE DEGREE ON LACK OF TRANSPORT AND PETROL. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) STRESS TO AMB HAMZA US NEED FOR DATA. (B) CONSIDER INCLUDING SUEAN IN CURRENT US SAHELLIAN AIRLIFT ON BILATERAL BASIS AFTER COMPLETION CURRENT MISSIONS IN AREA. END SUMMARY.

2. CONVERSATIONS GOS OFFICIALS: OVER PAST TWO WEEKS, CHARGE HAS RAISED DROUGHT PROBLEM WITH STATE MINISTER SUPPLY LUBAI, MIN-AGRICULTURE HABASHI, AND FONMIN UNDERSEC FADL OBEID. FONMIN MANSOUR KHALID HAS ONLY BEEN BACK IN KHARTOUM TWO DAYS AND CHARGE STILL AWAITING APPOINTMENT. EMBOFF HAS ALSO PURSUED MATTER OF DATA WITH APPROPRIATE MIN NAT' L ECON OFFICIAL.

3. BRIEF SUMMARY THESE CONVERSATIONS IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. STATE MINISTER SUPPLY LUBAI. AT SOCIAL FUNCTION JUNE 18, LUBAI (WHO IS IN APPARENT CHARGE OF WESTERN SUPPLY OPERATIONS) CONFIDENTIAL

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TOLD CHARGE SUFFICIENT GRAIN IN NYALA AND THAT SITUATION SATISFACTORY WHEN HE VISITED THERE TWO WEEKS PREVIOUSLY. PROBLEM IS DISTRIBUTION FROM MYALA TO VILLAGES. HE NOTED TRUCKS AND PETROL WERE IN VERY SHORT SUPPLY, BUT THAT RAINS HAD PROVIDENTIALLY BEGUN IN THE NORTH. HE WAS INTERESTED IN CHARGE'S REFERENCE TO AVAILABILITY IN SUDAN OF UN CHARTERED C-130S NOTING THEIR USE WOULD LIBERATE SOME OF THE TRUCKS. LUBAI AGREED DISCUSS MATTER IN DETAIL ON JUNE 21 BUT SUBSEQUENTLY CANCELLED APPOINTMENT AND WENT TO WAD MEDANI. PRESS REPORTED JUNE 20, HOWEVER, THAT DARFUR GOVERNOR TAYEB AL-MARDI CALLED ON LUBAI AND BRIEFED HIM ON WESTERN SUPPLY SITUATION SAYING 60,000 GALS OF GAS AND 18,000 GALS PETROL WERE IN DARFUR ALONG WITH DURA AND OTHER SUPPLIES. PRESS HAS ALSO RECENTLY STRESSED THAT VARYING NUMBERS OF RR TANK CARS HAVE BEEN ALLOCATED TO CARRY PETROL TO THE WEST. OTHER SOURCES HAVE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT PRICE OF DURA HAS RISEN SO HIGH IN CHAD COMPARED TO EL EASHER (\$25 PER BAG VICE \$6) THAT IT HAS BECOME PROFITABLE TO SELL THE TRUCK IN CHAD ALONG WITH THE DURA THUS FURTHER COMPOUNDING AVAILABILITY TRANSPORTATION IN DARFUR. US ROAD CONSULTING ENGINEER WHO ATTEMPTED VISIT WEST LAST WEEK FOR SURVEY RETURNED DUE LACK OF PETROL. HE REPORTED ANIMALS DYING AT WELLS FOR LACK OF GAS TO RUN THE PUMPS.

B. MINAG HABASHI. IN RESPONSE QUERIES, MINAG HABASHI TOLD CHARGE JUNE 19 SITUATION IN DARFUR "PROCEEDING ALL RIGHT". HE HAD NOT RECEIVED A "SINGLE REPORT OF DEATH". THERE WERE SUFFICIENT STOCKS IN SOUTHER AND WESTERN DARFUR TO FEED THE NORTH AND EAST, BUT SOME OF THIS WAS BEING DIVERTED TO CHAD. IT WAS IMPORTANT, OF COURSE, TO ACCUMULATE STOCKS TO FORESTALL FURTHER DIFFICULTIES.

C. FONMIN UNDERSEC FADL OBEID. CHARGE RAISED THE MATTER WITH OBEID AS PER STATE 118856 AND STRESSED WE NEEDED DATA BEFORE WE COULD CONSIDER ANY RESPONSE WITHIN OUR CAPABILITIES. OBEID SAID PREPARATION OF DATA UNDERWAY (HE HAD SEEN CABLES TO APPROPRIATE GOVERNORS) AND ADDED FONMIN'S WASHINGTON REQUEST WAS DIRECTED TO SOUTH AS WELL AS WEST WHERE DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS ALSO EXISTED. (THIS WAS NOT APPARENT FROM STATE 112046.)

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4. DATA. EMBOFF HAS BEZQ PURSUING MATTER OF DATA WITHIN MIN NAT'L ECONOMY. DATA WAS REPORTEDLY TO BE READY ON JUNE 23 AND, BASED UPON WORKING LEVEL COMMENTS, INCLUDED BROAD RANGE OF REQUESTS ENCOMPASSING MACHINERY, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMODITIES. DATA WAS NOT DELIVERED AND FURTHER INQUIRIES HAVE BEEN MET WITH RESPONSE THAT RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL IS ILL.

5. UN AIRLIFT. UNDP CONFIRMS THAT IT HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY GOS INQUIRIES ABOUT UN AIRLIFT OR AVAILABILITY AIRCRAFT. WE BELIEVE GOS NEGATIVE ATTITUDE PROBABLY BASED ON EXPECTED COST AS WELL AS POLITICAL DISINCLINATION TO BE TAINTED WITH WHAT IT CONSIDERS INABILITY ITS NEIGHBORS TO COPE WITH SAHELLIAN DROUGHT CONDITIONS.

6. ON- SPOT INFO. EMBOFF IS TALING OPPORTUNITY THIS WEEKEND OF FREE GOS- SPONSORED ECLIPSE TRIP TO NYALA TO GET INFO ON DROUGHT AND SUPPLY SITUATION THERE.

7. COMMENT: (A) I CONTINUE BELIEVE FROM CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE THAT GOS MAY WELL HAVE SERIOUS CURRENT AND POTENTIAL SUPPLY PROBLEM, BUT I DO NOT FEEL JUSTIFIED IN CITING AN EMERGENCY -- PARTICULARLY AS LONG AS SUPPOSEDLY RESPONSIBLE GOS OFFICIALS REFUSE TO ADMIT IT FROM EITHER CONVICTION, MISINFORMATION, OR IMAGE CONSIDERATIONS. MISINFORMATION AND/ OR CONCEALMENT IS A DEFINITE POSSIBILITY IN VIEW GOS POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OVER ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. (B) WE BELIEVE US HAS BEGUN PROVIDE AIR TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE TO SAHELLIAN STATES AT FAO REQUEST. IF GOS DATA INDICATE SEROUS PROBLEM EXISTS, WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR SUDAN TO BE INCLUDED ON BILATERAL BASIS AND AFTER FAO SAHELLIAN MISSION COMPLETED? COST WOULD BE PRESUMABLY BE MODEST AND POLITICAL AND HUMANITARIAN BENEFITS GREAT-- PARTICULARLY IF A POTENTIAL DISASTER IS AVERTID. (C) BELEIVE MESSAGE TO AMB HAMZA SHOULD BE-- GIVE US THE DATA.

8. AAO CONCURS.
FRITTS

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